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YUGOSLAVIA:

Situation Remains Tense

The Yugoslav Army appears to have strengthened its hand in dealing with ethnic violence. [REDACTED]

In an emergency session on Saturday, the federal Presidency commended the Army for intervening between the Serbs and Croats in Croatia and authorized it to prevent further fighting. Sporadic violence continued throughout Croatia over the weekend; at least one Serb was killed. Army troops reportedly have deployed to most areas of tension, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Austrian Foreign Minister Mock said publicly on Saturday that Austria and the EC should offer to mediate among the Yugoslav republics. He also implied that the CSCE Crisis Prevention Center should consider establishing a peacekeeping force similar to the UN to react to crises such as Yugoslavia's [REDACTED]

Slovenia's legislature this week will consider legislation that would give the republic control of various responsibilities now under federal control, including its own border defense, banking system, and passports. Prime Minister Peterle said passage of the legislation would open the way to full Slovene independence by the deadline on 26 June republic voters approved. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Croats will view the Army's continued deployment throughout Croatia and its unwillingness to disarm the rebel Serbs as part of a Serbian-backed effort to dismember the republic. Croatian President Tudjman still will try to avoid any confrontation with the Army, but he may not be able to control the republic population. Croats on Sunday tried to block tanks from deploying from Osijek. The Army may use such acts as an excuse to expand its authority in Croatia. [REDACTED]

Slovenia's efforts to assume at least the legal attributes of an independent state suggest that any reservations about a rapid timetable to independence probably have been overcome; the bloodshed in Croatia probably has reaffirmed for the Slovenes that a negotiated breakup of Yugoslavia is not feasible at this time. [REDACTED]
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